

Floodplain Management Plan Meeting Series: Meeting 4
March 1, 2023, 3-4 pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

IN PERSON Lori Rafferty (MSD Floodplain), Jennifer Caummisar-Kern (MSD Floodplain), Matt Schaaf (MSD Floodplain), Sheryl Lauder (MSD Communications), Harold Adams (MSD Communications), Angela Richardson (Louisville Metro Public Works), Amy Rose (Louisville Metro EMA), Jessica Kane (Louisville Metro Parks), Teena Halbig, Brad Allgeier, Josh Hunn, Coffey, Lucas Frazier, Tim Corrigan, JP Carsone, David Wicks, Mark Long, Jeff Frank, Tony Arnold, Tyler Mahoney, Patricia Jennings, Juva Barber

Lori Rafferty presented the goals developed in the previous meeting, related CRS topics and examples of potential activities for each that were touched on in Meeting 3:

Proposed Goals:

1. Reduce the loss of life and injuries that could be caused by flooding.

Example Activities:

- Provide more education about turn around, don't drown and emergency planning.
- Promote the use of available emergency notification methods.
- Construct flood mitigation basins or other drainage improvement projects.

Discussion regarding Goal 1 potential activities: Juva Barber and Lucas Frazier brought up questions on identifying of locations for potential regional storage basins within watersheds. Lori explained how this is being addressed by the current MSD watershed master planning effort. Tony Arnold would like to see reducing unequal vulnerabilities to flooding be addressed and a reduction of construction permitted in the floodplain. Juva Barber noted the flood compensation rate just increased and would like to hold off on floodplain construction restrictions until results of this change can be evaluated. Lori added that due to regulations already governing floodplain development, there are generally only a handful of applications in the floodplain every year and the current Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies an activity to review the floodplain ordinance. Tyler Mahoney recommended the impact of climate change on flooding be considered and a comparison of current flood mapping with First Street Foundation data be evaluated to identify the impact of increased rainfall. David Wicks asked if loss of life identified by this goal was related to biodiversity or only humans. Lori explained that this goal considered only human life and biodiversity would be addressed more directly in goal 4.

2. Reduce the impacts to property that could be caused by flooding.

Example Activities:

- Continue flood acquisition projects and prioritize repetitive loss properties.
- Increase outreach for flood insurance and CRS knowledge.
- Promote flood mitigation retrofitting to include installation of flood vents, raising utilities and equipment.

Discussion regarding Goal 2 potential activities: Mark Long stated he would like to see an option added for targeting most vulnerable populations with retrofitting options.

3. Promote flood safety and awareness of flood impacts.

Example Activities:

- Expand audience of flood messaging by sharing outreach materials with partners
- Expand methods of education outreach to include YouTube videos, etc.
- Create an online reporting system or app for neighborhood flooding to collect public-reported information about incidents of flooding to aid in future planning and flood modeling.

Discussion regarding Goal 3 potential activities: David Wicks stated he would like to see MSD work with Metro TV to present information on exploring watersheds and the Ohio River. This could be an educational series. Lori added that MSD has worked with Metro TV previously on rain garden educational videos. Per Harold Adams, based on previous work with Metro TV it would work best if MSD produced and delivered a finished product to them. Jessica Kane added that Metro TV is moving to a streaming app.

Tyler Mahoney would like to see high water markers added, similar to ones at the Falls of the Ohio, and there could be an opportunity to coordinate with Metro Parks to set up markers or monuments for recent flood elevations as well as signage for “Turn Around Don’t Drown” and info about flood water carrying diseases. Jeff Frank seconded that this would be good to do at the parklands. Lori stated that MSD could review USGS gauges in that area for past events.

David shared his past experiences taking students on tours of Beargrass Creek Pump Station and Derek Guthrie Treatment Center, he believes many people do not know what the flood pump station is. He asked about opening areas up for community visits. Per Lori, this may not be possible for security reasons, but MSD could potentially do outreach signage in those areas. MSD will investigate this further, per MSD Communications there are security reasons for not being able to release photos or video of inside of pump station.

David Wicks added link to the chat regarding an example of education for the Beargrass Creek Pumping Station: <https://youtu.be/xLucZH5daO4>

Mark Long would like to see more imagery available of previous floods and recent floods. David Wicks would like to see more projects to paint floodwalls to help make the system less invisible. Juva Barber would like to see education about improvements in flood protection since the 1937 and 1997 flood events. Jeff Frank would like information to focus on the flood protection infrastructure that is required to keep the city safe and to expand education on struggles and costs associated with keeping the floodwall and pump system functioning.

4. Protect and improve natural floodplain functions.

Example Activities:

- Promote the use of green infrastructure through social media, workshops, etc.
- Promote the use of riparian buffer zones and improvement of existing buffer zones.

Discussion regarding Goal 3 potential activities:

Mark Long, asked if there are incentives for owners to install raingardens or other green infrastructure such as pervious pavement. Lori stated this is something that could be looked into and that monthly bills are based on impervious area for commercial uses and a flat fee for single family. Jeff Frank stated there are many design methods in the MSD Design Manual that are not being utilized and we need to find a way to encourage people to use these methods. Lori

explained the MSD Green Infrastructure Fee in Lieu Grant Program, and Jennifer added information about the St Louis Audubon Society homeowner certification program.

Jessica Kane brought up the Every Drop Program and that it would be interesting to explore this partnership for watersheds prone to flooding. She stated that Metro Parks could host a demonstration area and Lori added that there could possibly be 319 funding for a project if it is located in the Middle Fork watershed. Jessica stated that the Mill Creek Greenway project may include demonstration space near the Sun Valley Golf Course and she would push for pollinator and no mow areas. David Wicks agreed that he would like to explore potential projects in parks' floodplain areas and Jessica said funding for a program like this would need to be determined.

JP Carsone asked if MSD still administered their rain barrel program. Lori answered this project is still supported through partnership with the Louisville Nature Center but MSD does still have the downspout disconnect program.

Lori stated she would like to see a stream buffer guide for home owners who abut these areas. Juva agreed that information on what you can or cannot do in easements abutting streams and floodplains would be helpful for HOAs to have. Lori added that the University of Kentucky has example outreach on this topic.

Jeff Frank would like to see an inventory created that identifies historic and relic wetlands converted to agricultural use prior to 1976. These places could have high value as restored wetlands and contribute to ecological function. He would also like to see more localized stream monitoring for areas that are more flood prone and tie in warnings and outreach at these locations.